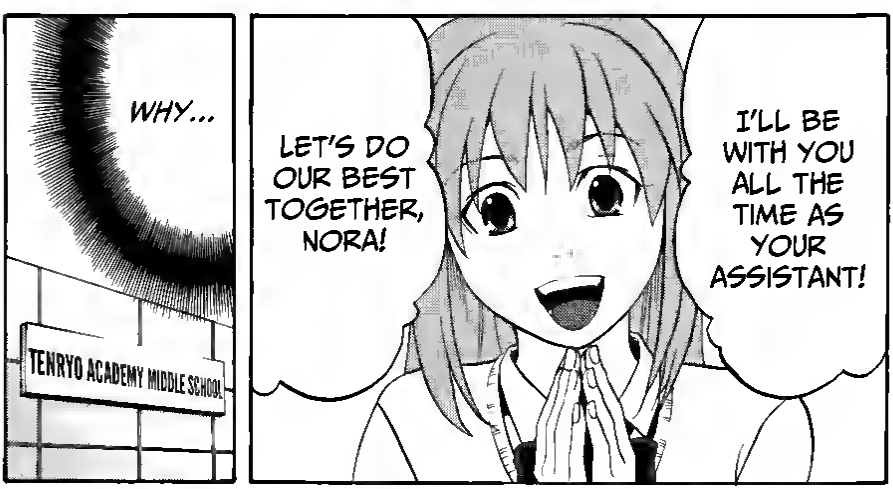
CHAPTER 2: BONDS



CHAPTER 2: BONDS

AM I ALREADY SWITCHING SCHOOLS THE NEXT DAY!?
THIS IS OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT, NORA KUJO.
JUST HOW POWERFUL IS THAT YAKUZA GUY...
He even took care of the uniform and entrance exams.

SO PEOPLE WHO TAKE SUREBREC TURN INTO THOSE THINGS...
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I HAD TO MEET THAT WEIRDO GIRL...!!
FORGET THE DEMONS,
We're in the same class.
I GUESS THAT CRAZY-STRONG GUY WAS KINDA LIKE A DEMON. BUT IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE...
THOSE PILLS CONTAIN A POWER THAT HUMANS STOLE FROM DEMONS.
SO IF I LOOK FOR THE SUREBREC, I SHOULD FIND HIM...!!
BUT THE SUREBREC SYMBOL AND THAT MARK ARE THE SAME ONE MY "ENEMY" HAD.

2-B
I'LL FIND HIM AND MAKE HIM PAY!!
HOME-ROOM'S FINISHED, SO WE'RE DONE WITH SCHOOL FOR THE DAY.
HUH? OH, RIGHT...
NORA!
WHAT!?
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER, FULL SPEED!!
SO...

SO I CAN HELP MY FATHER, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT!!
I do aikido, tai, karate, judo, kendo
SO I'M ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE MYSELF A BETTER PERSON!!
MY FATHER ALWAYS SAYS, IF YOU'VE GOT FREE TIME, YOU SHOULD USE IT TO BETTER YOURSELF!
TIME IS MONEY!
ダダダダ
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS!!
BUT NOW THAT I'M YOUR ASSISTANT, I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU TOO!!
YUP!!
THE WISDOM OF KAZUMA
"IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, TAKE IT"
"HOLDING MEN BACK IS A WOMAN'S POWER"
YOU TAKE WHAT YOUR DAD SAYS WAY TOO SERIOUSLY...
NOW THAT YOU'RE MOVING IN, WE'VE GOTTA GET ALL YOUR STUFF IN ORDER!!
NOW LET'S HURRY AND GET HOME!
I... I DON'T REALLY NEED AN...

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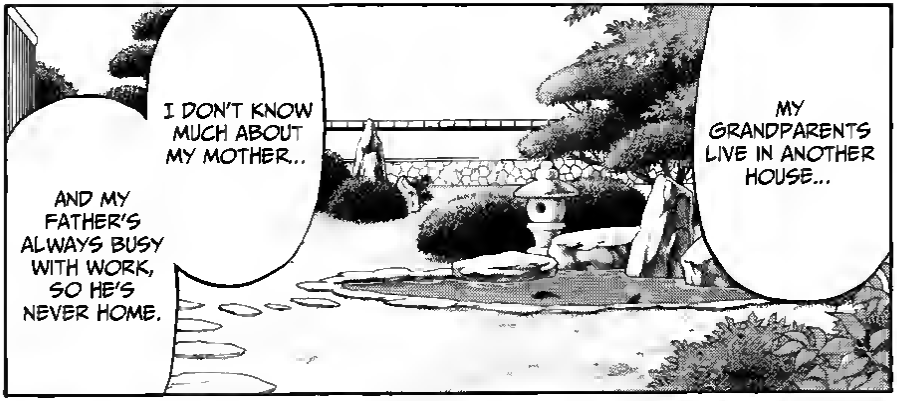
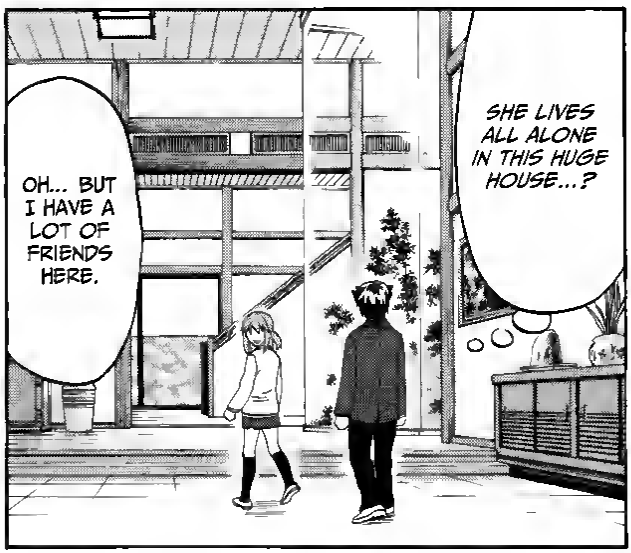
JUST ME.
HUH!?

HUGE...
HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE HERE...?

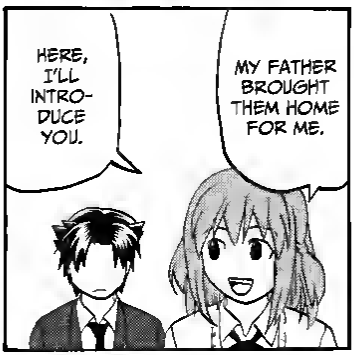

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MY MOTHER..
AND MY FATHER'S ALWAYS BUSY WITH WORK, SO HE'S NEVER HOME.
MY GRANDPARENTS LIVE IN ANOTHER HOUSE...


OH... BUT I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS HERE.
SHE LIVES ALL ALONE IN THIS HUGE HOUSE...?

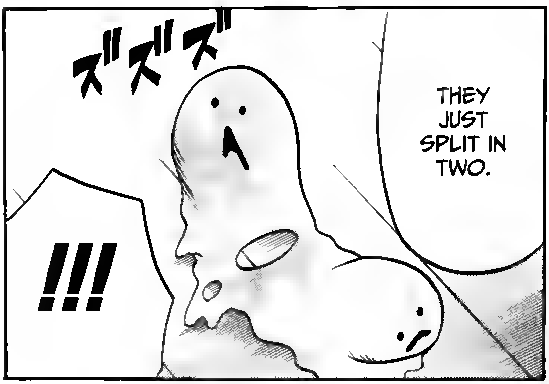
SO IT'S PRETTY MUCH JUST ME LIVING HERE.
THERE'S A FEW WORKERS, THOUGH
!!!

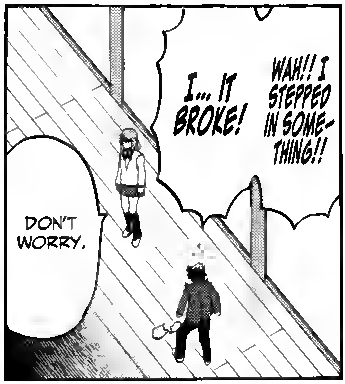
SPLORCH

TAMA! POCHI!!
CATS? DOGS?


HERE, I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU.
MY FATHER BROUGHT THEM HOME FOR ME.

OH, TARO!!


ズズズ
!!!
THEY JUST SPLIT IN TWO.


I... IT BROKE!
WAH!! I STEPPED IN SOME-THING!!
DON'T WORRY.

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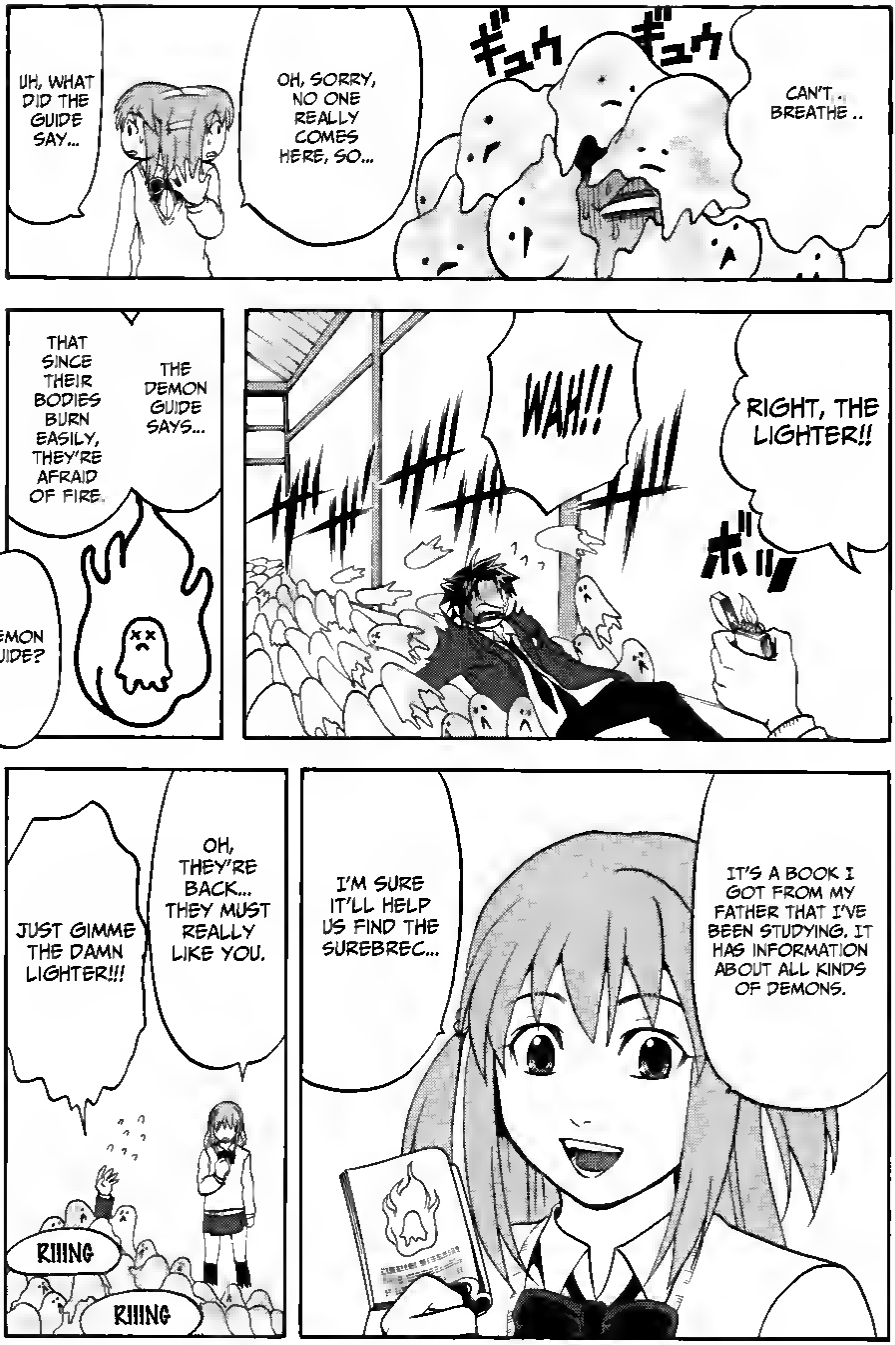
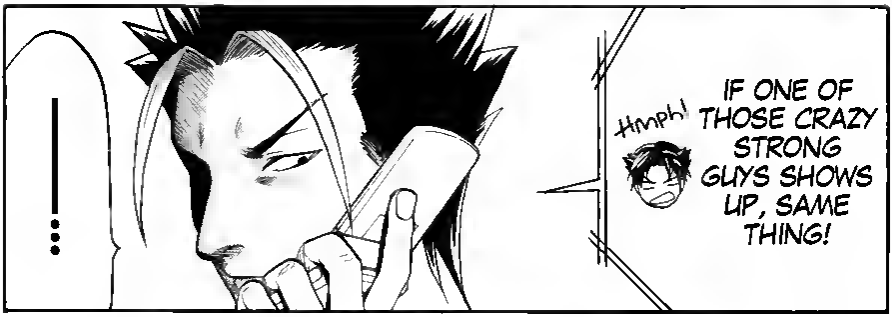
BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE DEMONS, THEY'RE REALLY WELL-BEHAVED AND GET ALONG GREAT WITH PEOPLE!
THESE ARE ALL JELLIES. THEY'RE DEMONS.

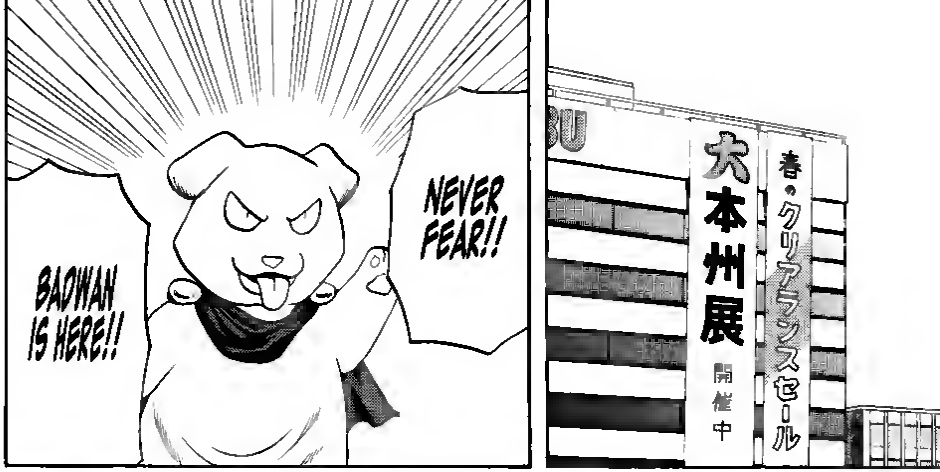

UH, WHAT DID THE GUIDE SAY...
OH, SORRY, NO ONE REALLY COMES HERE, SO...
ギュウ
ギュウ
CAN'T.. BREATHE..
THE DEMON GUIDE SAYS...
THAT SINCE THEIR BODIES BURN EASILY, THEY'RE AFRAID OF FIRE.
DEMON GUIDE?
WAH!!
RIGHT, THE LIGHTER!!
ボッ
OH, THEY'RE BACK... THEY MUST REALLY LIKE YOU.
JUST GIMME THE DAMN LIGHTER!!!
RIIING
RIIING
I'M SURE IT'LL HELP US FIND THE SUREBREC...
IT'S A BOOK I GOT FROM MY FATHER THAT I'VE BEEN STUDYING. IT HAS INFORMATION ABOUT ALL KINDS OF DEMONS.

Well, kid?
How do you like the house?
I just nearly got suffocated!! How the hell would I like it at all!?
Just let me live in a hotel like my old man while my house is being fixed!!
Sorry, not an option.
Ahh, this is the life.
You know next to nothing about Surebrec.
You'll just get in trouble if you run off.
Then let us go look for the Surebrec already!!
Don't get ahead of yourself.
Let's just go outside!
Sit tight and study for a bit.
Study!?
What kind of sick joke is this!?

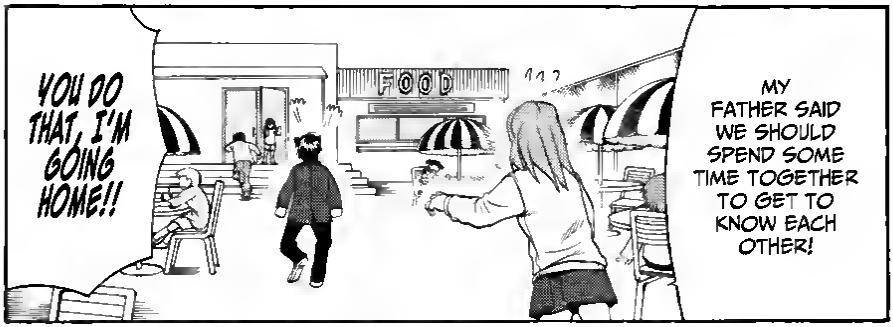
FIND THE GUYS WITH SUREBREC AND TAKE IT FROM THEM!!
IF THEY USE IT, BEAT THE CRAP OUTTA THEM LIKE I DID BEFORE!!
THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW!


IF ONE OF THOSE CRAZY STRONG GUYS SHOWS UP, SAME THING!
Hmph!
!...

FINE...
IF YOU'RE SO CONVINCED YOU CAN HANDLE IT, THEN GO AHEAD.


BADWAN IS HERE!!
NEVER FEAR!!
春・クリアランスセール
大本州展
開催中

BADWAN AUTOGRAPH SESSION
MAKE A LINE EVERYONE!!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO HAVE FUN!!
WHY'RE WE AT SOME STUPID COSTUME SHOW!?


FOOD
YOU DO THAT, I'M GOING HOME!!
MY FATHER SAID WE SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CRAP!!
I'M LOOKING FOR SUREBREC SO I CAN FIND THE GUYS WHO TRIED TO KILL ME!!
SCREW THAT!!
MY FATHER SAID—
YOU CAN'T, NORA!
BUT MY FATHER—
WILL YOU SHUT UP ABOUT YOUR DAD ALREADY!?
IF YOU WANT TO HELP HIM, DON'T DRAG ME INTO IT!!
I CAN FIND THE SUREBREC BY MYSELF!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!!

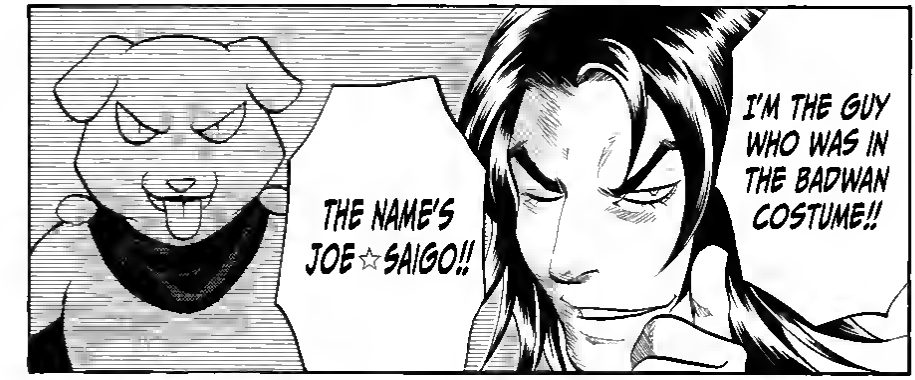
I... I'M SORRY...
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T END UP LIKE HIM!
RGH...
SHH!
MOMMY, HE MADE HER CRY.
HE RAN AWAY!
Y... YOU THIRSTY!? I'LL GET SOMETHING TO DRINK!!
Yeah!
Go get 'im Badass!
HEY, YOU!! YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE A GIRL CRY IN FRONT OF ME AND GET AWAY WITH IT!?

HE MUST HATE ME...
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
!!!
PO-N
LET'S GO RUN AFTER YOUR FRIEND!!
YOU GOTTA MAKE UP RIGHT AFTER YOU HAVE A FIGHT, LITTLE GIRL!!
TH.. THANK YOU.. I'LL DO MY BEST!!
GO DO IT!! THAT'S A PROMISE WITH BAOWAN!!
GO FOR IT!
I'LL.. MAKE UP WITH HIM!!
NO... I CAN DO IT MYSELF.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE BADWAN AUTOGRAPH SESSION, IT'S ON THE ROOF...
HEY, KID! THIS HALLWAY'S STAFF ONLY!
I'M NOT!!
I WASN'T TRYING TO MAKE HER CRY...
G... GIRLS AREN'T FAIR!
NO, I DIDN'T!!
BEEP
DID YOU GET AN AUTO-GRAPH?
DAMN IT... I JUST RAN OFF AND NOW I'M LOST...
Kids these days...
RIIIING
RIIIING
LOOK... INTO...
BZZT
BY THE... NEED YOU...
BZZT
QUIT TREATING ME LIKE A DAMN KID!!!
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST SHOOK HIS HAND.
HEY, I GOT YOU THE TICKETS.

GREAT... I FOUND YOU!
NORA!
!
HUH?
SIGNAL MUST BE BAD, I CAN'T HEAR YOU...
?
I, UH... I'M...
WH.. WHY ARE YOU THE ONE APOLOGIZING?
!!
UM!! I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID!!
UH...
...HUH?
HEY! YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE!!

!!
OH, IT'S YOU TWO!!
SO DIDJA MAKE UP!?
UM... WHO ARE YOU?
OH RIGHT, YOU DON'T KNOW ME!


I'M THE GUY WHO WAS IN THE BADWAN COSTUME!!
THE NAME'S JOE☆SAIGO!!

CAN YOU HEAR ME, KID? I CAN'T HEAR YOU THAT WELL...
!!
WHAT'S HIS DEAL...
UM... THANK YOU FOR EARLIER...
!!

I NEED YOU TO LOOK INTO THE GUY IN THE COSTUME. HIS NAME'S SAIGO.
.....!?
BY THE WAY, I COULDN'T HELP BUT HEAR WHAT YOU WERE ARGUING ABOUT.
YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FOR "SUREBREC," DIDN'T YOU?
HUH..?
HE'S A PRIME SUSPECT.

WHO ARE YOU!?
HE PROBABLY HAS SUREBREC.

I HEARD SOMEONE WAS LOOKING FOR SUREBREC...
DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE YOU KIDS!

!!
WHAT'S GOING ON, KID? I HEAR NOISE...

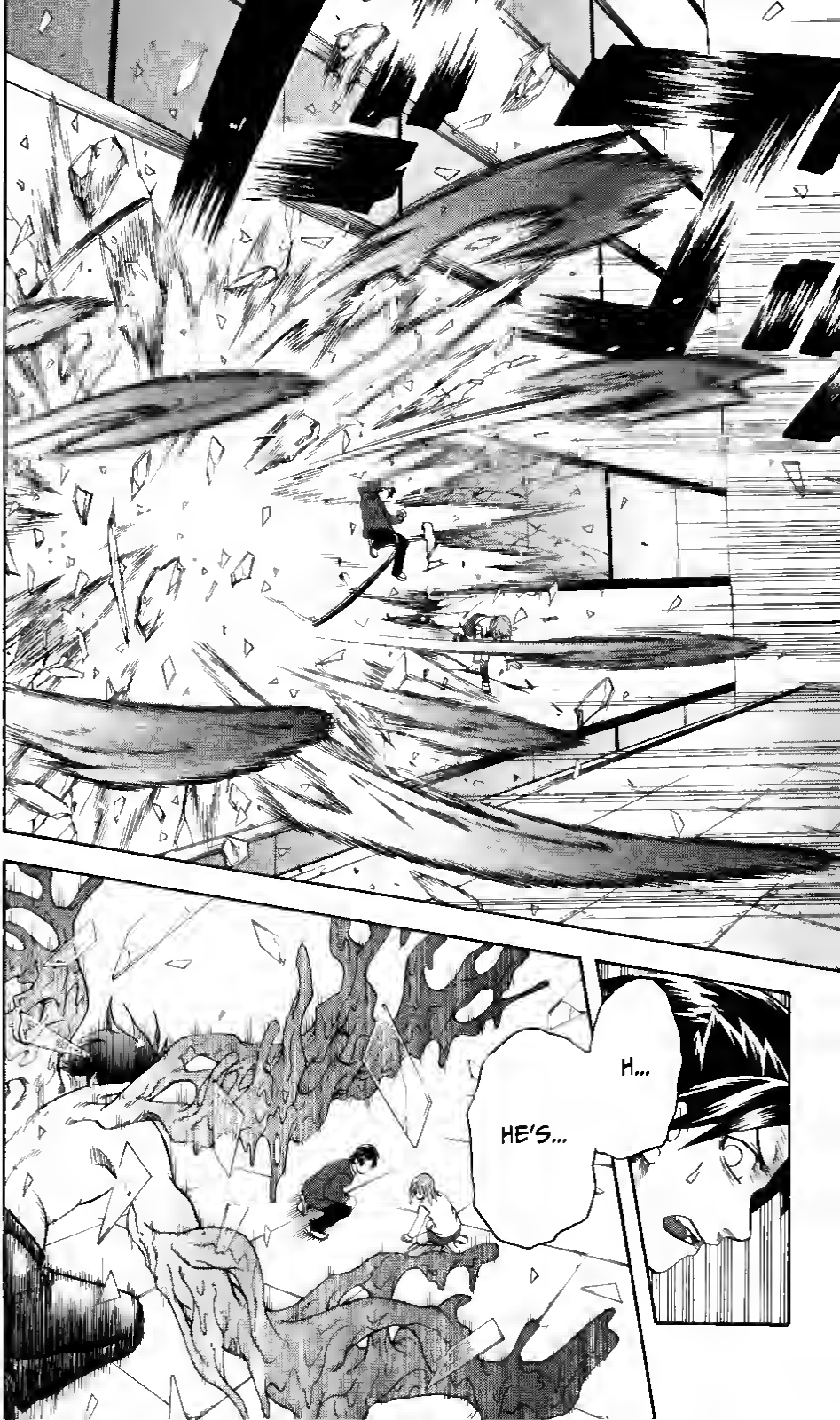
WHAT THE HELL!?
SO YOU WERE ALREADY INVESTIGATING ME...

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE LOOKING FOR SUREBREC!
SO HAND IT OVER!
!!

THE SUREBREC IS MINE!!
SHIT... YOU'RE NOT GETTING THIS!!
スッ
OW!!
ドーン
I'M NOT GIVING THIS TO ANYONE!!
SUREBREC...!!
AH!!
ゴクッ

THE SUREBREC!!
HE TOOK...
TWITCH
HEH HEH...
IT'S MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU THINK..
YOU CAN'T, NORA!
I'LL JUST BEAT THE CRAP OUTTA YOU!!
HAH! DO WHAT YOU WANT! IF YOU TURN INTO SOME SUPER-POWERED FREAK...
THIS INCREDIBLE POWER...!!
I CAN FEEL IT...

I'VE FINALLY BECOME A SUPERHUMAN!!
SO THIS IS THE POWER OF THE DEMON DRUG, SUREBREC...
WHAT...
THE...
I'LL TEST OUT MY NEW SUPER-POWERS...
ON YOU TWO!!
THIS WAY! WE CAN GET TO THE NEXT BUILDING!!
OH CRAP!!


H...
HE'S...

NOT HUMAN...!!
ドロ

THEY CAN GET DIFFERENT POWERS DEPENDING ON THE DEMON..
SUREBREC GIVES WHOEVER TAKES IT THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE DEMON IT WAS MADE FROM.

HE'S NOT LIKE THAT LAST GUY AT ALL!!

GH...
SO THAT LAST GUY'S POWER WAS JUST BEING STUPIDLY STRONG, THEN!?

RUN...
GAH!!
BUT...
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING NOW...!!
GH... IDIOT...
I'M YOUR ASSISTANT!!
!!!
AAAAAHH!!

RAIKA!!!
URGH...
YOU...

BASTARD!!
HAHA!! I'M A SUPER-HUMAN!!
YOU CAN'T EVEN SCRATCH ME!!
!!
NORA..
AH!!
I COULD JUST RUN YOU THROUGH RIGHT HERE...

BUT I WANT TO SEE HOW POWERFUL I REALLY AM!!!
URGH.
GH..
NANI
UR...
GH...
CAN'T.. BREATHE...
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!!
CAN I... REALLY NOT DO ANYTHING!?
!
HE CAN REGENERATE PARTS OF HIS BODY...
HIS SUREBREC POWER...

NORA! IT'S A JELLY!!
!?
THE WAY THIS FEELS... AND HIS REGENER-ATION...
IT'S A JELLY SUREBREC!!
!!
DO YOU REMEMBER!?
WHAT THE DEMON GUIDE SAID ABOUT JELLIES...
RIGHT...
THE JELLIES' WEAKNESS IS...

FIRE!!
AH...
GAH...
Hot!!

GYAAAAHH!!
RAIKA!!
AAHHH!!
HE..
EXPLODED..
ズル

YOU WILL PAAAAAAAY!!!

I AM A SUPER-HUMAN...
WHOA!!!

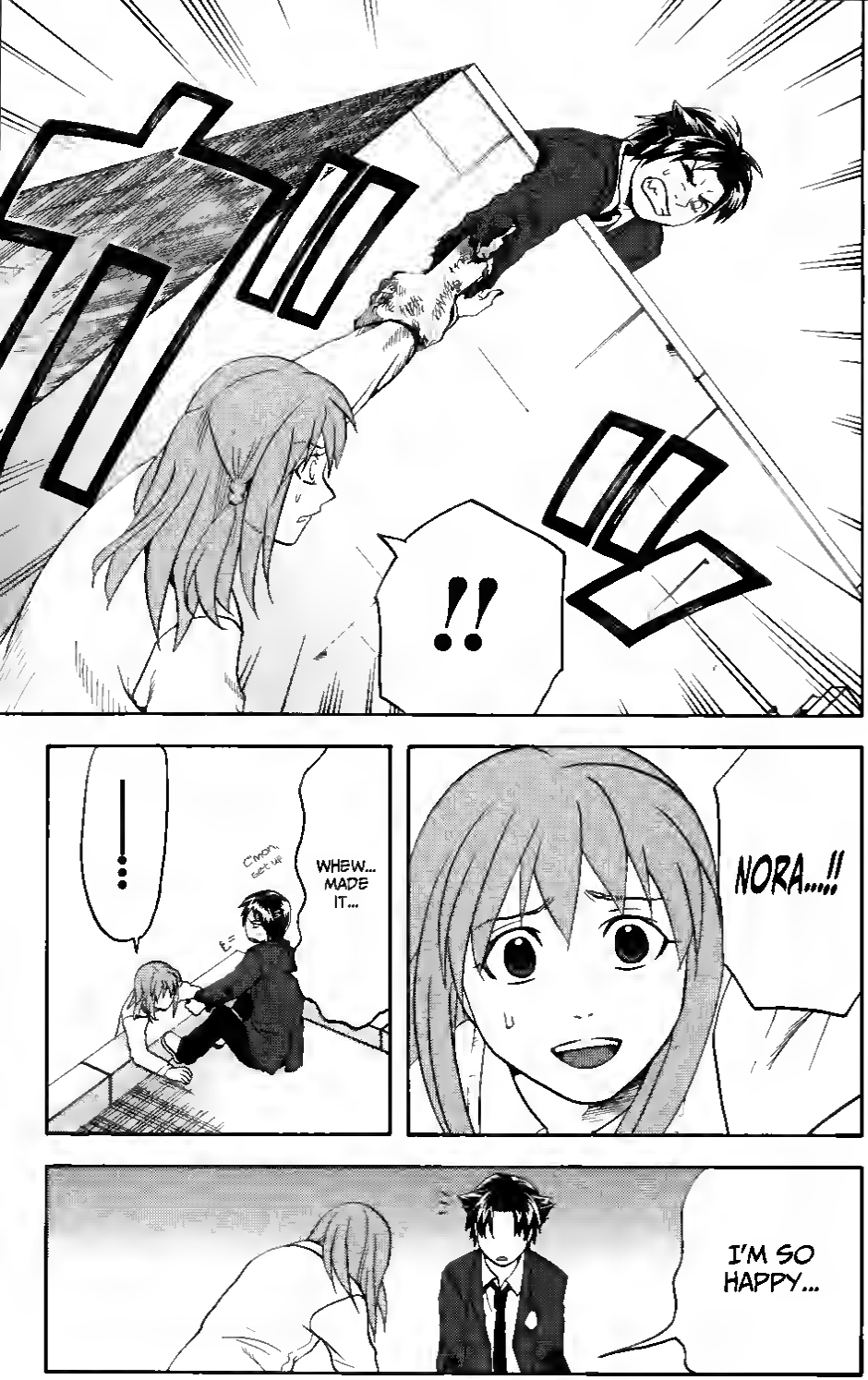
I CAN'T...
URGH...

LET GO OF ME!!

NORA...!!
!!

LET GO OF ME, DAMN IT!!!

AAHH...
GAAHH!!
AH...


!!
!!!
WHEW... MADE IT...
NORA...!!
I'M SO HAPPY...

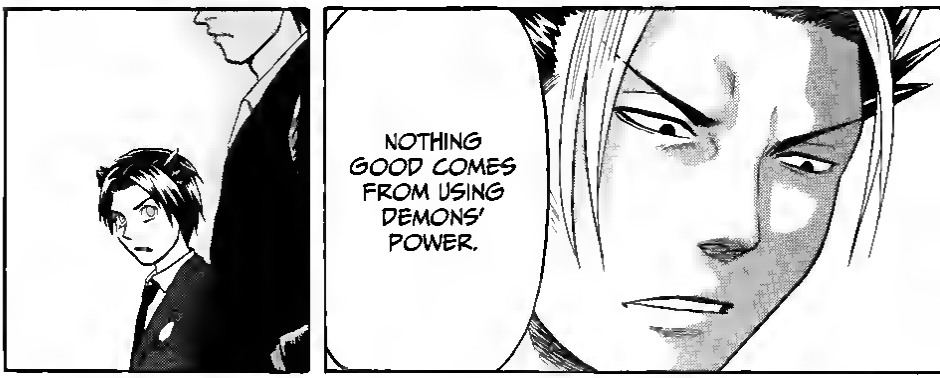
I... WAS ABLE TO HELP YOU, RIGHT...?
UH...
SO UM. CAN I KEEP BEING YOUR ASSISTANT...?
!

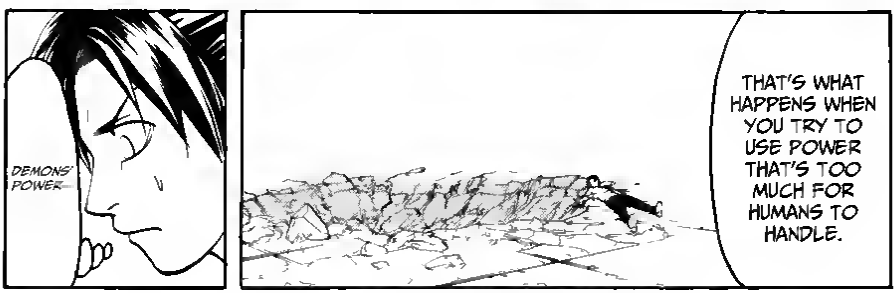
WELL, UM...
ABOUT WHAT I SAID BEFORE...
SORRY...

SORRY, BUT YOU'LL NEED TO DO THIS LATER.

WHAT ABOUT HIM!?
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
RIGHT AFTER YOU DESTROYED THE PLACE LIKE AN IDIOT.
WH... WHEN DID YOU GET HERE!?
FATHER!?

HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN HIS HANDS ON SUREBREC BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE A SUPERHUMAN SO BADLY...
UGH...
HE'S ALIVE, BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO RECOVER FROM THAT BLOW HE TOOK ANY TIME SOON.


NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM USING DEMONS' POWER.


DEMONS' POWER...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO USE POWER THAT'S TOO MUCH FOR HUMANS TO HANDLE.

LAST TIME AND THIS TIME,
THAT WEIRD MARK SHOWED UP ON MY RIGHT HAND WHEN I HIT THE GUYS WHO TURNED INTO DEMONS...
DO I HAVE SOME SORT OF POWER TOO...?